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Amendments to the Claims

Please replace all of the pending claims in the application with the following complete set of claims.

1 - 20. (canceled).

21. (new) A method of sanding a non-planar surface comprising the steps of:

identifying the desired shape of the surface to be sanded;

selecting a profiled sanding pad that most closely matches the desired shape of the surface to be sanded;

applying an abrasive material to a sanding surface of the profiled sanding pad;

securing the profiled sanding pad to a sanding pad holding portion, the sanding pad holding portion connected with an in-line sander having an elongated sander housing configured to be grasped by a user of the in-line sander, and the sanding pad holding portion defining an outwardly facing channel that opens outwardly from the sander housing and that extends in a direction generally along a length of the sander housing, the channel being arranged and configured for receiving and holding a profiled sanding pad;

activating the in-line sander in order to move the sanding pad holding portion in a linear oscillating motion, the linear oscillating motion being in the direction generally along the length of the housing; and

bringing the abrasive material into contact with the surface to be sanded;

wherein the step of selecting a profiled sanding pad comprises choosing a profiled sanding pad from a selection of at least two different profiled sanding pads previously provisioned.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of applying an abrasive substance to the sanding surface comprises the steps of:

selecting an appropriate planar sheet of sandpaper; and

applying the sandpaper to the sanding surface of the profiled sanding pad.

23. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of applying an abrasive substance to the sanding surface comprises the steps of:

selecting an appropriate tubular sheet of sandpaper;

inserting the profiled sanding pad into the interior of the tubular sheet of sandpaper; and

shaping the tubular sheet of sandpaper to conform to the sanding surface of the profiled sanding pad.

24. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the selection of profiled sanding pads comprises at least one profiled sanding pad having a particular cross sectional profile corresponding to a profile to be formed onto or to be sanded on the surface to be sanded; and

wherein the cross sectional profile extends in a plane substantially perpendicular to the linear oscillating motion, and the cross sectional profile extends substantially consistently along the entire length of the profiled sanding pad.

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25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the sanding surface of the profiled sanding pad extends along at least a portion of an edge of the cross section profile; and wherein the sanding surface is convex with respect to the surface to be sanded.

26. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the sanding surface of the profiled sanding pad extends along at least a portion of an edge of the cross section profile; and wherein the sanding surface is concave with respect to the surface to be sanded.

27. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the sanding surface of the profiled sanding pad extends along at least a portion of an edge of the cross section profile; and wherein the sanding surface presents an angle with respect to the surface to be sanded, and the angle is between 0 degrees and 180 degrees.

28. (new) A tool kit adapted for sanding a non-planar surface comprising:
an in-line sander having an elongated sander housing configured to be grasped by a user of the in-line sander; and
a plurality of profiled sanding pads, each profiled sanding pad having a particular cross sectional profile corresponding to a profile to be formed onto or to be sanded on the surface to be sanded;
wherein the cross sectional profile extends in a plane substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the elongated sander housing, and the cross sectional profile extends substantially consistently along the entire length of the profiled sanding pad.

29. (new) The tool kit of claim 28, wherein the plurality of profiled sanding pads includes at least one profiled sanding pad having a sanding surface that is convex with respect to the surface to be sanded.
30. (new) The tool kit of claim 28, wherein the plurality of profiled sanding pads includes at least one profiled sanding pad having a sanding surface that is concave with respect to the surface to be sanded.
31. (new) The tool kit of claim 28, wherein the plurality of profiled sanding pads includes at least one profiled sanding pad having a sanding surface that presents an angle with respect to the surface to be sanded; and
the angle is between 0 degrees and 180 degrees.
32. (new) The took kit of claim 28, wherein at least one of the plurality of profiled sanding pads has a hollow section extending through a central portion of the cross sectional area of the profiled sanding pad.
33. (new) The took kit of claim 28, wherein at least one of the plurality of profiled sanding pads is formed of a polymer material.
34. (new) The took kit of claim 33, wherein at least one of the plurality of profiled sanding pads is formed of nitrile butadiene rubber.
35. (new) The took kit of claim 28, wherein the in-line sander comprises:
a housing including an elongated handle portion aligned along a longitudinal axis, the housing also including a lateral offset portion that projects laterally outward from one end of the handle portion, the lateral offset portion defining a sanding end that is laterally offset from the handle portion;

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a motor mounted within the handle portion of the housing, the motor including a motor shaft that is generally parallel with respect to the longitudinal axis of the housing;

a transverse shaft aligned generally transversely with respect to the motor shaft, the transverse shaft extending through the lateral offset portion of the housing;

gears for transferring rotation from the motor shaft to the transverse shaft; and

a pad holder that is linearly oscillated by the transverse shaft as the transverse shaft is rotated, the pad holder being oscillated in a direction generally parallel to the longitudinal axis, the pad holder being positioned at the sanding end of the lateral offset portion of the housing.

36. (new) The took kit of claim 28, wherein the in-line sander further comprises:

a motor disposed within the sander housing, the motor being operatively coupled to a drive shaft, the drive shaft including a first eccentric portion;

a pad holder arranged and configured to be linearly oscillated by the first eccentric portion as the drive shaft is rotated; and

a counterweight for inhibiting vibration of the in-line sander, the counterweight being oscillated approximately 180 degrees out of phase with respect to the pad holder.

37. (new) The took kit of claim 28, wherein the in-line sander comprises:

a sander housing including an elongated handle portion and a head portion, the handle portion being configured to be grasped by a user of the sander, and the head portion projecting laterally outward from one end of the handle portion,

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wherein the head portion forms a sanding end that is laterally offset from the handle portion such that finger clearance is provided between the handle portion and a surface to be sanded;

a pad holder located at the sanding end of the sander housing;

a motor housed within the elongated handle portion of the sander housing, the motor including an elongated drive shaft that extends longitudinally within the elongated handle portion of the sander housing; and

an in-line oscillating mechanism operatively coupled between the elongated drive shaft of the motor and the pad holder, the in-line oscillating mechanism being at least partially housed within the head portion of the sander housing, the in-line oscillating mechanism being arranged and configured to move the pad holder in a linear oscillating motion in a direction generally along the length of the sander housing.

38. (new) The took kit of claim 28, wherein the in-line sander further comprises:

a sanding pad holding portion defining an outwardly facing channel that opens outward from the sander housing and that extends in a direction generally along a length of the sander housing, the channel being arranged and configured for receiving and holding a profiled sanding pad;

the sanding pad holding portion also including a plurality of projections that extend into the channel, the projections being arranged and configured for assisting in retaining the profiled sanding pad within the channel;

a motor housed within the housing; and

an in-line oscillating mechanism operatively coupled between the motor and the sanding pad holding portion, the in-line oscillating mechanism being arranged and configured to move the sanding pad holding portion in a linear oscillating motion, the linear oscillating motion being in the direction generally along the length of the housing.

39. (new) The took kit of claim 28, wherein the in-line sander further comprises:

- a sanding pad holding portion defining two spaced-apart outwardly facing channels extending in a direction generally along a length of the sander housing, the channels being arranged and configured for receiving and holding profiled sanding pads, and the channels being angled outward from one another;
- a motor housed within the housing; and
- an in-line oscillating mechanism operatively coupled between the motor and the sanding pad holding portion, the in-line oscillating mechanism being arranged and configured to move the sanding pad holding portion in a linear oscillating motion, the linear oscillating motion being in the direction generally along the length of the housing.